

IT'S LAKE COUNTY FAIR TIME! From agricultural exhibits and horse shows to grandstand events and carnival rides, the Lake County Fair has something for everyone! This year's fair runs August 5 to 14 at the Lake County Fairgrounds in Crown Point. **INFO:** www.lake-county-fair.com

GAZEBO EXPRESS



YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENT SOURCE FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND • AUGUST 2016

MAKING HIGHLAND ACCESSIBLE



ADA transition plan calls for more than \$5 million in improvements

Since the town adopted a plan to make Highland-owned buildings, parks and sidewalks accessible to all residents and visitors, department heads have taken the initiative to heart.

From new construction to existing structures, Highland is investing more than \$50,000 per year on its ADA to-do list.

Building Commissioner Ken Mika coordinates the town's ADA compliance program. He said a 21-page report created three years ago details the changes necessary to make the town's public lands accessible to those with disabilities.

Town Council President Bernie Zemen said accessibility is an important component of all project, including a new town hall.

"We want everyone to be able to conduct business or simply enjoy our parks and open spaces to the best of their ability," he said.

Mika said sometimes small changes – such as adjusting the height of a concession stand counter – make a big difference.

"Access is key to our residents' quality of life," he said. "We have been increasingly successful at exceeding the dollar amount we spend on ADA compliance every year."

TRANSITION PLAN

More than \$5 million in ADA projects are included in the transition plan. Here's a look at the latest projects:

BUILDINGS: A concrete wheelchair ramp at 3333 Ridge Road along with modifications to main-floor bathrooms have helped make town hall accessible for business and meetings.

PARKS: Everything about Lincoln Center was planned with ADA compliance in mind. Upgrades throughout the park system include extra ADA pathways and drinking fountains as well as an accessible fishing pier at Meadows Pond and compliant playgrounds at Jaycee and Orchard parks.

SIDEWALKS & INTERSECTIONS: The town has successfully upgraded intersections along Kennedy Avenue as part of the water improvement project and along 41st Street using federal grant dollars.

INFORMATION: Visit highland.in.gov for the complete ADA transition plan, grievance procedures and forms.

HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY

Make your environment safer by bringing your batteries, cleaners, oils, paints, solvents, poisons, gasoline, pesticides, antifreeze, mercury thermometers, thermostats and fluorescent bulbs to the town garage. Items not accepted include tires, appliances, ammunition, explosives, medical/radioactive wastes, asbestos, 30-gallon or larger containers.

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. **AUG. 27**
WHERE: Public Works, 8001 Kennedy
INFO: Call (219) 972-5083.

CALLING ALL ARTISTS ...

Highland is looking for local artists interested in creating an outdoor mural at 2821 Jewett St. The selected artist will receive a \$500 stipend and will be reimbursed up to \$400 for supplies. Visit highland.in.gov to review the entire Public Mural Call for Art prior to submitting a proposal.

SUBMISSIONS: Send a sketch of your proposed mural, dimensions and bio to: lyrskamp@highland.in.gov by **AUG. 15**.

... AND LOCAL POETS!

Highland Poet Laureate Lily Rex is seeking poetry submissions for the town's first poetry sidewalk display. Writers may submit up to three poems – any length, form or subject. Winning poems will be painted on sidewalks downtown in 'invisible' ink, which will show up when the sidewalk is wet.

SUBMISSIONS: Please send all prose by **SEPT. 1** to lily.rex.poet@gmail.com and include the poet's name, town or city, and email address.



... TOWN TICKER ...

HIGHLAND PUBLIC WORKS is looking for an entry-level employee who can operate a front-end loader, jet truck/sewer rodder, black top roller, trucks and other light and heavy equipment. Applications are available at the Department, 8001 Kennedy Avenue.
INFO: Call (219) 972-5083

CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY

The Highland Police Department is accepting applications for its next Citizens Police Academy.

The academy gives residents a taste of the intricacies of law enforcement from prevention to intervention.

Applicants must be at least 18 and a Highland resident or the owner or employee of a business in town.

The academy consists of a nine-week program that gives the public a working knowledge of police work. Classes are held from 7 to 9:30 p.m. every Tuesday, beginning Sept. 13, in the Community Room of the Highland Police Department, 3315 Ridge Road.

Instruction includes lectures, demonstrations, tours and a ride-along with police.

QUESTIONS? Please call Deputy Cmdr. John Banasiak or Sgt. Chris Balbo at (219) 838-3184.

APPLICATIONS: Applications may be picked up at the Police Department or downloaded from the website at highlandpolice.com.



WARD 1

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NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?

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HIGHLAND, MUNSTER RESIDENTS ENJOY NEIGHBORING PARKS & REC AMENITIES

Early numbers show Highland and Munster residents are embracing a reciprocal agreement between the two community parks.

The agreement, which provides in-town rates for specialty park facilities to neighbors on both sides of a geopolitical line, is enhancing recreational opportunities across the board.

Since January, the number of Munster residents using Lincoln Fitness Center has more than doubled compared to 2015. It's nearly the same story across Hart Ditch, where Highland residents have secured memberships to the Munster Dog Park and Community Pool in record numbers.

Highland Recreation Director Dave Byers said the partnership has improved what each community is able to offer its residents, lowering costs for individuals while building the bottom line through increased use of more expensive programs – namely the pool for Munster and fitness center for Highland – without overwhelming them.

"This partnership has worked exceptionally well for everyone," Byers said. "Both park boards have seen the benefits and renewed the agreement for 2017." 🐦

LINCOLN CENTER REVENUES

Overall revenues are on pace to best last year's totals. Projected earnings for 2016 are \$464,231, up from \$449,685 in 2015. The reciprocal agreement is adding to the bottom line. Munster residents make up 13.3 percent of fitness memberships, up from 6.7 percent.

	JANUARY	JULY
Munster memberships	57	114

Highland residents using Munster facilities:

Dog park memberships	18	34
Pool memberships	31	42

SILVER SNEAKERS

Lincoln Community Center is now a Silver Sneakers location offering free fitness center memberships to qualifying adults. The nation's largest fully funded Medicare exercise program for adults 65 and older, Silver Sneakers health plans include: AARP Medicare Supplement Insurance, Aetna Medicare, Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield, Humana and United Healthcare.

INFO: To check eligibility and register, visit silversneakers.com. The program is planned to launch later this month.

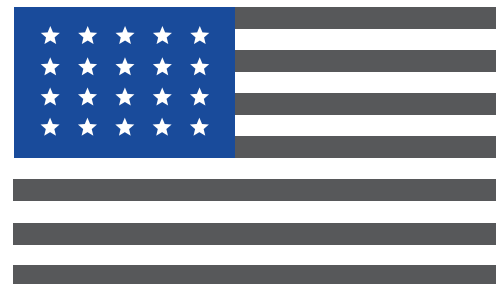
1818 FLAG CELEBRATES STATE BICENTENNIAL

To commemorate Indiana's Bicentennial close to home, Lake County's 19 cities and towns, along with county government, are flying the 1818 flag, the first Flag of the United States to display a star representing Indiana.

The 20-star flags are part of the Indiana First U.S. Flag Display, a Legacy Project marking the state's 200th birthday.

Clerk-Treasurer Michael Griffin, one of Highland's torch bearers in the upcoming relay, brought the flag proposal to the local bicentennial committee, which endorsed the idea along with Highland Historical Society.

"We believe the Indiana First flag project is a great way to provide important nuggets of historical significance to our residents," Griffin said. "The flags will be flown between now and



Dec. 11, when they will officially be retired, but will remain on display in each community."

Sue Douthett, curator and president of the Highland Historical Society, said: "As a partner in the project, the society especially commends this as an imaginative way to celebrate the history of the state of Indiana ... and create a lasting legacy for Indiana's future." 🐦

CHECK OUT WHAT'S BREWING DOWNTOWN

Tiffany's Tea Room is latest addition to Jewett cultural hub – amid Sip Coffee House, Miles Books, Primitive Peddler

Rhonda Bloch is creating another stir on Jewett Street with the reopening of Tiffany's Tea Room now at the Primitive Peddler.

The owner of Sip Coffee House in Highland and Crown Point knew she was making a smart business decision in transforming the Victorian-inspired menu and furnishings of Tiffany's to the heartier Sip on the square in Crown Point. Still she always knew she'd find a way to recreate Tiffany's.

"After Sip opened in Highland, I was talking to Amy Siebenhaar and Mary Ellis, who own Primitive Peddler, and mentioned that a tea room would be awesome in the store," she said. "A few months later, we talked again and figured out a way to make it happen."

Between the Primitive Peddler, Miles Books, Sip Coffee House and now Tiffany's on the west end of Jewett and the increased traffic from Dan's Pierogi's two blocks east, Bloch said there is a renaissance afoot.

Between the opening of Kennedy Avenue and the bike path, Highland's downtown retail corridor is gaining steam.

"Highland has the opportunity to become another Crown Point or Valparaiso," she said. "There is an energy that wasn't here before."

TIFFANY'S TEA ROOM

Tiffany's Tea Room is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Reservations are welcome but not necessary. The tea room is available for showers and parties and accommodates up to 75 guests for special events.

FOR MORE INFO:

Call (219) 306-0980 or (219) 9235770.

Find Tiffany's Tea Room at the peddler on Facebook.



THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS!

The Town Council and Clerk-Treasurer are offering a heartfelt thank you to the members of the Council of Community Events, volunteers and First Responders for the ace job they did executing another fantastic Fourth of July festival.

"From the work they do attracting entertainment and food vendors to the Twilight Parade and the festival at Main Square Park, this group of people gives it their all," Councilman Steve Wagner said. "Highland's festival was top-notch – as usual. We couldn't do it without them."



COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY EVENTS SEEKS FEEDBACK

The Town Council and members of the all-volunteer Council of Community Events are seeking your input on what changes – if any – should be made to the five-day Fourth of July festival.

Council President Bernie Zemen said the two groups are eager to hear at the HCCE August meeting what residents like best and what they might like to see changed.

"The Council of Community Events is one of the hardest working groups in town," he said. "We hope to attract new volunteers and invigorate the festival with new offerings in 2017."

WHEN: 7 p.m. **AUGUST 11**

WHERE: Town Hall, 3333 Ridge Road

INFO: Email President John Breslin at libertyordeath@sbcglobal.net.

HOOSIER HIGHLANDER – FRAMING AND ART SUPPLY STORE – FOR SALE

After 22 years as the faces of Hoosier Highlander, owners Sue Ferguson and Donna Freeland are on the hunt for just the right entrepreneur to take over the business.

In 1946, Hoosier Highlander was the town's stationery store. Since taking over the storefront nestled on the east end of downtown in 1994, longtime friends Ferguson and Freeland made it their own, providing quality framing along with fine arts and scrapbooking supplies.

"Highland has been a great place to do business," Ferguson said. "The nicest people come in here."

Every day at Hoosier Highlander is unique. "We are amazed at the wonderful things people bring in to be framed," Freeland said. "We are never bored when we're at work."

"Right now, it's all about finding someone who has dreamt of owning their own business and finds this to be an ideal fit," she said.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

Hoosier Highland is for sale, including the business, equipment and fixtures. The building consists of 2932 Highway (Hoosier Highlander) and 2934 Highway (Maritza's Cafe).

INTERESTED? Call business owners Donna Freeland at (219) 743-7193 or Sue Ferguson at (219) 512-6185.

MOVIES IN THE PARK

Join us for an evening in the park to watch "The Good Dinosaur" on the big screen. The concession stand will sell popcorn and fountain drinks. Bring a blanket or comfortable lawn chair. If it rains, we'll to the Fieldhouse.

WHEN: Dusk Friday, **AUGUST 19**

WHERE: Main Square Park

INFO: (219) 838-0114 or highlandparks.org.

AMERICAN LEGION PICNIC

Join the American Legion for its annual picnic featuring delicious food, fantastic music and fun activities, including raffles, horseshoes and bean bags. Proceeds benefit Post 180 programs, including building repairs.

WHEN: 2 p.m. **AUGUST 27**

WHERE: American Legion Post 180, 2703 Jewett.

TICKETS: \$10 donation includes food, soda, draft beer and five chances to win cash prizes.

INFO: Call Stephanie Schillo at (219) 671-1208.

OUTDOOR STREET MARKET

Come to the outdoor market for juicy tomatoes and all the beans, peas and beets your arms can carry. Stay for the best local music around.

WHEN: 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturdays through **OCT. 15**

WHERE: Main Square Park

INFO: (219) 838-0114 or highlandparks.org.

NFL PUNT, PASS & KICK

Held in conjunction with the Highland High School Tailgate party, the punt, pass & kick is open to boys and girls ages 6-15.

WHEN: 5 p.m. **AUGUST 26**

WHERE: Highland High School baseball field

REGISTER: By **AUGUST 24** at Lincoln Center or at www.nflppk.com. Birth certificate required.

NOTE: Tennis shoes only; no cleats.

INFO: (219) 838-0114 or highlandparks.org.

HHS TAILGATE PARTY

The Highland Athletic Boosters will host their annual tailgate party before the Highland-Hammond Varsity game. All proceeds benefit the Highland High School Athletic Department.

WHEN: 5 to 7 p.m. Friday **AUGUST 26**

WHERE: Highland High baseball field

ADMISSION: \$1 per person, ages 6 and older.

INFO: Email haabc14@gmail.com.

EVP® YOUTH VOLLEYBALL CAMP

Taught by EVP volleyball professionals, this four-day camp concentrates on the fundamentals of volleyball to give participants a head start on the upcoming volleyball season.

WHEN: Monday - Thursday, **AUGUST 8-11**

GRADES 3-5: 1 to 3 p.m.

GRADES 6-8: 3 to 5 p.m.

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEE: \$74 residents/\$79 nonresidents

INFO: (219) 838-0114 or highlandparks.org.



Wild Ones - Gibson Woods Chapter 38

PARTNERS WITH NATURE

Join local plant enthusiasts for the 6th Biennial Native Plant Symposium. Immerse yourself in the floral and fauna of Northwest Indiana and learn how to bring the best of nature to your backyard.

From rain gardens and barrels to the native plants that provide a habitat for endangered butterflies and bees, botanical experts will share their knowledge and help attendees develop their own green thumb.

The day-long seminar will include discussion on: urban storm water management, creating backyard habitats that support regional conservation, cultivating a responsible attitude for backyard bugs and an overview of Indiana Dunes native landscapes.

Highland resident Marjorie Chapman said the afternoon break-out session will give attendees an opportunity to share their native gardening experiences.

Event information

8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Saturday, September 24
St. John Township
Community Center
1515 W. Lincoln Highway
Schererville
Questions? Call Theresa at (219) 937-9483.

Early registration

\$30 members
\$40 nonmembers
through Aug. 24
Includes continental breakfast, buffet lunch
Register online at gw-wildones.org

ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUE

Register now for Parks and Recreation's fall softball league. It's a 14-game round-robin season. Rosters are limited to 20 players. Highland Parks and Recreation reserves the right to place teams in the proper division. Cash awards will be given in each division!

SEASON: Runs **SEPTEMBER 11 - OCTOBER 27**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

TEAM FEE: \$560 due by **AUGUST 18**

SEED MEETING: A manager's seed meeting will be held at 6 p.m. **AUGUST 25** at Lincoln Center.

INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114.

SWIM CLUB REGISTRATION

The Highland Hurricanes Swim Club, a competitive swim team for youth ages 5-18 in Highland and surrounding communities, is conducting registration for its fall/winter season, which begins Aug. 31. Birth certificate needed for registration. New members must bring a swimsuit/towel for in-water evaluation.

WHEN: 5:30 to 7 p.m. **AUGUST 17 and 29**

WHERE: Highland High Natatorium, 9135 Erie St.

FEE: Varies depending on age and level.

Payment plans are available.

INFO: (219) 595-9357 or highlandhurricanes.net.